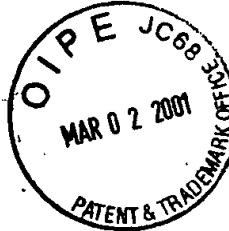


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Attn BOX ISSUE BRANCH  
Shoji YUYAMA et al. : Docket No.2000\_1479A  
Serial No. 09/699,507 :  
Filed October 31, 2000 :  
MEDICATION PACKING APPARATUS



#5  
Pre-Amendment(A)  
D. Townsend  
11/06/03  
Reok  
5/A

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims:

Kindly amend claims 4 and 7 as follows.

4.(Amended) The medicine packing apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein when a blank package belt is discriminated by the discriminating means, the distributing means distribute the blank package belt toward a discharge position

7. (Amended) The medicine packing apparatus as in Claim 5, wherein one of the arms of the gripping means has a press surface and wherein the moving means turns the gripping means so that the press portion presses the medicine package belt bound in the binding position to discharge it.